



## AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**Michael Rosen** is probably best known as a children's author and poet, but he is also a performer, lecturer, broadcaster and journalist, and has written over 140 books. He served as Children's Laureate from 2007 – 2009. During this time, he developed online resources for teachers and now has an official video channel for children. He was awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize for writing in 2023.

**Daniel Egnéus** is a prolific artist, who has illustrated numerous books. He was voted Best Illustrator by the Association of Illustrators in 2005, and his picture book, *Lubna and Pebble*, (written by Wendy Meddour) was chosen by TIME Magazine as one of the 10 best picture books in 2019. He is based in Athens.

## WEBSITE

<https://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/>

## LINKS

Watch Michael perform his poetry  
<https://www.youtube.com/@MichaelRosenOfficial>  
Short animation about how bears hibernate  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03cXAZjgo8k>



# THE BIG DREAMING

Younger Children Shortlist 2024

## INTRODUCTION

A beautifully told and illustrated story about a little **bear** who is anxious about running out of dreams during the Big Sleep. When he sets off through the forest in search of **dreams**, he meets three animals, each of whom shares one of their own dreams with him. The dreams are about **happiness, homecoming** and **hope**. As the **winter** cold begins to descend, Little Bear makes it back just in time to snuggle up with Big Bear for the period of **hibernation**. Though not a rhyming story, there is a repeated refrain and rhythmical use of language, resulting in a gentle and reassuring story, which offers lots to talk about.

## ACTIVITIES

**Read** Ask your child or children to find out if **squirrels, rabbits** or **wolves** hibernate during the winter. Do any of the animals have strategies for surviving during the winter? Watch the film about *How Bears Hibernate* (in the Links).

**Write or Illustrate** Ask your child or children to imagine what Little Bear might have dreamt about during the Big Sleep. Now draw a picture of Little Bear with two or three cartoon style thought-bubbles. Use the bubbles to write about or illustrate Little Bear's dreams about life as a bear. For example: eating, exploring, making friends with other animals or bears, playing.

**Create** a Story Map for *The Big Dreaming*. Model with your class or group, before asking them to create their own version. Ask them to include the setting, the characters, the main events of the plot and the outcome.

## NOW READ ON

*Winter Sleep* by Sean Taylor, Alex Morss & Cinyee Chui (Happy Yak, 2021) A gentle introduction to the concept of hibernation, using examples from around the world.

*Do Bears Poop in the Woods* by Huw Lewis Jones & Sam Caldwell (Thames & Hudson, 2022) Entertaining factual book about the eight different species of bears.

*Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* By Martin Waddell & Barbara Firth (Walker, 2013) A classic bedtime favourite.